



Lower Arkansas River Watershed

Resources at work from October 1, 2007- September 30, 2008

The Colorado Watershed Approach

Instead of the traditional statewide approach in addressing priority resource issues like soil erosion, water quality, grazing lands, wildlife, and animal waste, NRCS looks to Colorado's ten watersheds to identify their particular local resource needs and priorities.

Watershed work groups meet annually to determine which natural resource concerns are most prevalent in their communities.

In turn, Colorado NRCS focuses its resources on addressing those concerns. Colorado's local conservation districts provide leadership in this effort to foster increased decision making at the local level.

High Priority Resource Concerns in the Lower Arkansas River Watershed

- Water Quantity
- Rangeland Health
- Erosion
- Water Quality
- Invasive Species

Fact.... The Lower Arkansas River Watershed totals **8,683,610 acres**.

It includes all and/or portions of Baca, Bent, Crowley, Kiowa, Las Animas, Lincoln, Otero, Pueblo, and Prowers Counties. NRCS natural resource specialists are staffed at the Eads, La Junta, Lamar, Las Animas, Rocky Ford, and Springfield USDA Field Service Centers, as well as at the Northeast Prowers Conservation District Office to assist residents.

Vision

Productive Lands -
Healthy Environment

Mission

Helping People
Help the Land

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Lower Arkansas Watershed
Colorado Counties Served



Watershed Profile

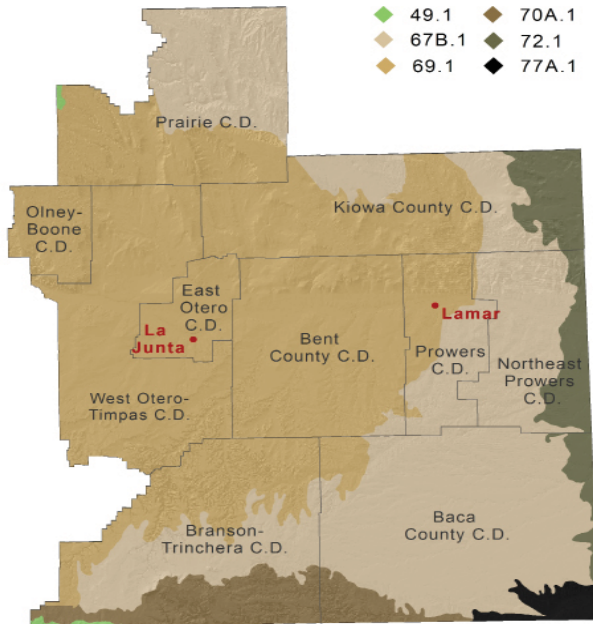
Lower Arkansas Watershed

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service



Common Resource Area

- 49.1
- 67B.1
- 69.1
- 70A.1
- 72.1
- 77A.1



0 4 8 16 24 32 Miles

Lower Arkansas Watershed

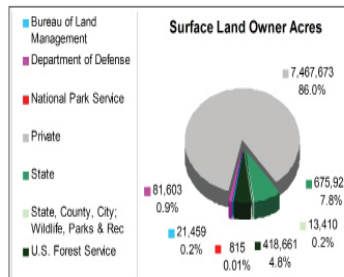
NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service



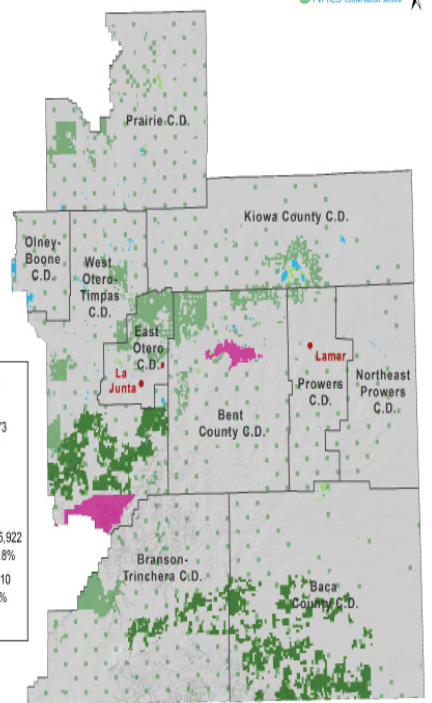
Land Owner

- Bureau of Land Management
- Department of Defense
- National Park Service
- Private
- State
- State, County, City, Wildlife, Parks & Rec
- U.S. Forest Service

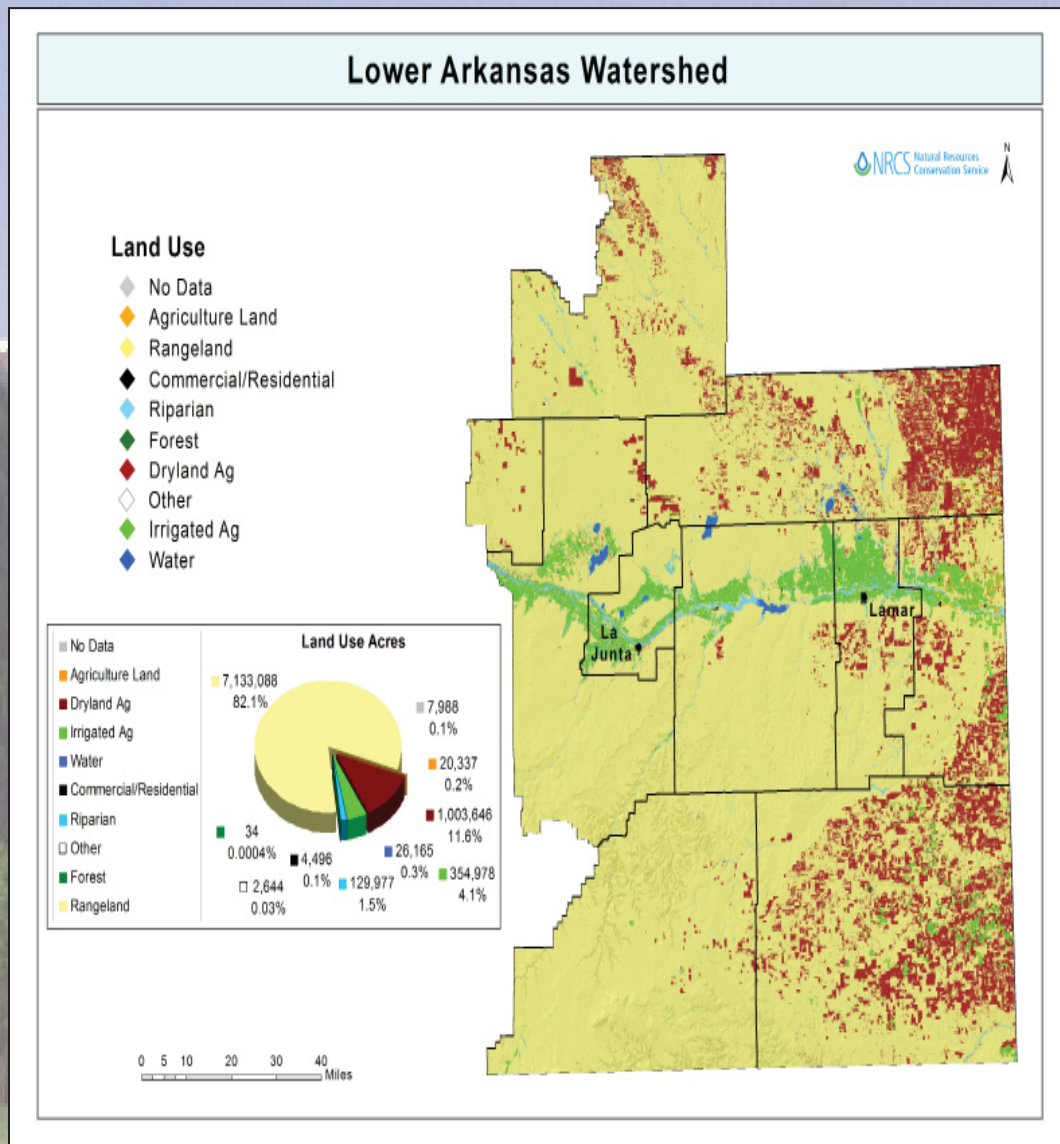
Surface Land Owner Acres



0 5 10 20 30 40 Miles



Watershed Profile



Helping People Help the Land.



2008 Farm Bill Program Activities

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was reauthorized in the Farm Bill to provide a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality.

EQIP provides financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management conservation practices on eligible agricultural land. EQIP may provide cost-share incentives for up to 75 percent of the costs of certain conservation practices.

FY 2008 EQIP Contract Funding in the Lower Arkansas Watershed

Natural Resource Concerns	Applications Received	Applications Contracted	Acres Treated	\$ Amount Approved
Water Quality/Quantity	79	70	13,118	\$2,311,585
Grazing Land	63	45	172,174	\$1,684,125
Soil Management	26	23	13,816	\$691,315
Animal Waste Management	3	2	66	\$83,152
Wildlife	3	2	1,944	\$16,680
Apishapa River Drainage Proposal	5	5	303	\$102,480
Baca County "08" Invasive	4	4	200	\$37,450
Crowley County Re-vegetation Project	15	6	798	\$73,966
GSWC	10	10	2,679	\$588,193
Totals	208	167	205,098	\$5,588,947

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) offers landowners technical and financial support to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property.

FY 2008 WRP Statewide Activities

Number of Applications Received	3
Number of Applications Contracted	1
Dollar Amount Approved	\$435,750
Acres under Contract	1,162

The Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) is a voluntary program that helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture. It provides matching funds to organizations with existing farmland protection programs to purchase conservation easements or other interests in land.

FY 2008 FRPP Statewide Activities

County	Type	# Projects	Acres	Fed. Share
Saguache	Ranch	1	1,575	\$765,000
Montezuma	Ranch	1	516	\$700,000
Weld	Farm	1	300	\$1,350,000
Total		3	2,391	\$2,815,000



The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program that encourages creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations of National, State, Tribal, and local significance.

FY 2008 WHIP Statewide Activities

Number of Applications Received	45
Number of Applications Contracted	34
Dollar Amount Approved	\$797,836
Acres under Contract	3,734



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Equal
Opportunity
Provider and
Employer.**

January 2009

